

TEXAS STAR+PLUS 1915(b)/(c) Managed Care Program

Project Name:	STAR+PLUS
Project Original Approval:	January 30, 1998
Project Renewal Approval:	September 27, 2002
Project Renewal Expiration:	September 30, 2004

PROGRAM SUMMARY

STAR+PLUS is a highly innovative Medicaid pilot program that integrates the delivery of acute and long-term care services through a managed care system. STAR+PLUS is implemented under Section 1915(b)(1), 1915(b)(2), 1915(b)(3), and 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act (the Act); and the STAR+PLUS Community Based Alternatives (CBA) program is implemented under a 1915(c) home and community-based services waiver.

This program is mandatory for all SSI and SSI-related aged and disabled Medicaid recipients in Harris County (Houston). Participants may choose from two managed care organizations (MCOs); children and certain behavioral health clients also have the option of a primary care case management model. PCCM is available for clients who have chronic or complex conditions. Care coordinators have the responsibility of coordinating all aspects of the clients' care as well as identification of needs, getting specific equipment and services for clients. Recipients who may otherwise be institutionalized continue to live in an integrated community setting in accordance with the Olmstead Initiative. All Medicaid only clients receive unlimited Medicaid prescription instead of the current three per month limit.

HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

All beneficiaries choose from two managed care organizations (or the primary care case management option, if applicable) and a primary care provider. An individual can change health plans at any time. All Medicaid acute and long term care services are obtained through the MCO and its network of providers. Beneficiaries may see providers within the network for behavioral health and family planning without a referral. Beneficiaries who choose the PCCM option receive primary care from a primary care physician within the PCCM network, but may see any specialist or hospital that accepts Medicaid.

Beneficiaries in MCOs with chronic or complex conditions, and clients who request one, are assigned a care coordinator who is responsible for coordinating all aspects of the beneficiary's care.

BENEFITS/SERVICE PACKAGE

STAR+PLUS provides acute and long-term care services to Medicaid-only beneficiaries eligible for SSI, and only long-term care services to dually eligible beneficiaries eligible for SSI. All Medicaid only clients receive unlimited Medicaid prescriptions instead of the current limit of three per month. Dual eligibles that choose to receive their Medicare services through the same STAR+PLUS MCO could also receive unlimited Medicaid prescriptions. However, this option has not been available in the program since December 1999.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

Texas projects savings of \$123 million for the two years of the renewal period.

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